

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 remain for further consideration. No new matter has been added.

The rejections and objections shall be taken up in the order presented in the Official Action.

2-11. Claims 1-7 and 15-20 currently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Published Patent Application 2002/0157950 to Frerichs (hereinafter “Frerichs”) in view of U.S. Patent 6,525,390 to Tada (hereinafter “Tada”).

Frerichs is not prior art to the claimed invention. Specifically, Heinz-Peter Frerichs is the sole named inventor on Published U.S. Patent Application 2002/0157950, which claims priority to German Application 10118367 filed April 12, 2001. Mr. Frerichs is also the sole named inventor of the subject matter claimed in the present application. Accordingly, Published U.S. Patent Application 2002/0157950 is a publication of the inventor’s own work. Therefore, although Published U.S. Patent Application 2002/0157950 was published approximately three weeks prior to the earliest filing date of the present application, it is not available as prior art against the present application since it was the inventor’s own work. Withdrawal of the obviousness rejection is respectfully requested.

12-13. Claims 1-2, 4-6, 15-17 and 19 currently stand rejected for allegedly being the same as claims 1-10 of U.S. Patent 6,929,728 to Frerichs (hereinafter “’728 Frerichs”).

A Terminal Disclaimer is enclosed herewith thus rendering the obviousness-type double patenting rejection moot.

14. The indication that claims 8-14 are allowed is noted and appreciated.

For all the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-20 is respectfully requested.

If a telephone interview could assist in the prosecution of this application, please call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Patrick O'Shea", written over a horizontal line.

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